

REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

There are no amendments to the drawings.

The specification has been amended to clarify that reference numeral 40 in the drawings refers to the button panel and that reference numeral 41 refers to a conventional CASH OUT button.

The Examiner has objected to the specification and drawings as being improper with regard to the reference numerals 40 and 41 and Applicant submits that the amendments to the specification now overcome the Examiner's objection.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim what the Applicant regards as his invention. Amendments have been made to the claims to provide proper antecedent basis and the clarify that the method of play of the present invention is limited to playing only two hands at a time.

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has made amendments to Claims 1 and 5 to provide proper antecedent basis for each term used in the claim.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Ferguson (US6270405).

Ferguson discloses a video poker game in which cards are moved among multiple hands. Applicant's invention moves the discarded cards from a first hand into a second hand which provides a different method of play than the game play disclosed by Ferguson.

In Ferguson, various embodiments of his game play are described. However, there is a consistent rule of play in that a single first hand is displayed and cards are removed one at a time and each time a card is removed, a replacement card is immediately displayed in the first hand. The replacement cards are placed in the same card position in the first hand, one through five, as was held by the removed card.

Each removed card is placed in second, third (or even fourth or fifth) hand in the same card position that the removed card occupied in the first hand. Because Ferguson discloses that there at least three total hands that are being played, a replacement card can become a removed card.

In Applicant's invention, a replacement card cannot become a removed card.

Applicant's invention is limited to a two hand game with any removed cards from the first hand being placed in the second hand. After the cards are removed from the first hand, replacement cards are dealt into the first hand which results in a final first hand. The removed cards from the first hand are placed in the second hand and additional cards, if any, are dealt into the second hand which results in a final second hand. If the player achieves winning hand combinations in either the final first hand, the final second hand or both, then the player receives an award.

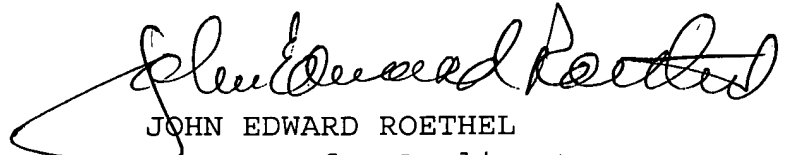
There is nothing in Ferguson that would teach or suggest that Ferguson could be limited to only playing two hands at a time. In fact it is an important feature of the Ferguson invention that at least three hands be played at a time to allow the player to move cards among the first, second and third hands.

Applicant submits that all of the claims pending in this application, Claims 1-9, are allowable over the prior art of record and the Examiner is requested to reconsider the rejections of Claims 1-9 and to find that these claims are now allowable.

If the Examiner has further questions regarding this

application, the Examiner is requested to call undersigned
counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



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